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Rules for Right Living and Right Conduct

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Rules

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Rules

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FROM

President C. W. Eliot.

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May 7 1920

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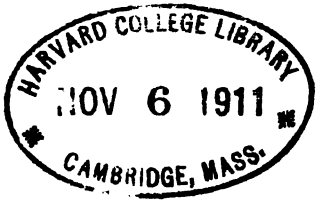
RULES FOR RIGHT LIVING AND RIGHT CONDUCT

FROM THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS THE CHRIST

BOSTON
SHERMAN, FRENCH & COMPANY
1911

III. 12662



Pres. C. W. Eliot
Cambridge

PREFACE

In the education of our children we very wisely take great pains to give them rules —rules to apply to their mathematics, their grammar, composition, rhetoric, etc. Later, some will be taught rules for engineering, for surveying, for navigation, or for whatever occupation they may choose.

But hitherto we have set these children adrift on the great ocean of existence without giving them any rules for living, or for the conduct of life. We give them neither rudder nor compass by which to steer their ship of life across the stormy waters of this world; neither map nor chart to enable them to avoid ship-wreck and to reach in safety the shore of the great Hereafter.

And yet, we wonder that so much character is hopelessly ship-wrecked!

This little book, containing some of the rules given us by the one great Teacher,

hopes to supply this deficiency and make safer and happier the voyage which all must take to that far-off shore.

In Mohammedan countries they study and obey their Koran; the Jews are wonderfully obedient to the laws of Moses; why should not we, in this Christian land, give to our children the same opportunity to learn, and require of them the same obedience to, the teachings of Christ? In failing to do this are we not depriving them of their birthright? Are we not robbing them of what is the very foundation stone of true education?

Until this is done no one can truly say that the Christian Religion has ever been fairly tried.

The man who knows and obeys the teachings of Christ is a good, safe and honorable citizen, even if he knows little else.

A bad man, putting his knowledge to bad uses, becomes more dangerous the more he knows.

Therefore it seems that, without doubt, goodness is the essential foundation of all worthy and useful life. So, let us teach

our young people, first of all, to be good. The rest will follow.

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these (other good) things shall be added unto you," is a promise we can safely trust, for when that is done, all the laws and forces of God's universe are working with and for us. And, "if God be for us, who can be against us?"

These little lessons, far more interesting than the multiplication table, less difficult to remember, and of infinitely greater importance in the life of the child, should be learned by heart, and the children told and required to put them in practice every day, in the school, in the play-ground, in the street, in the home, and all through their lives in their contact with their fellow men.

"By beginning the practice of these rules when young, habits of right thinking and right doing will be formed, and these will prove an anchor to the soul when the temptations of the world have to be met."

Chapter and verse have not been given in these lessons, as they are comparatively

unimportant and more difficult to remember than the verses themselves, but they may be found in the Index.

It has been difficult to select, where all is priceless, but there are certain passages which seem absolutely indispensable in the formation of character, and these, as far as possible, have been placed among the earliest lessons.

In the study of this little book it is thought desirable that the teachers make no comments on the text unless asked to do so, for, as children are naturally religious, it is hoped and believed the heart of each child will respond, in its own way, to the words and teachings of the divine Master.

Dear Children and Friends:

God, our heavenly Father, has put us into this world to be happy and to be good, and to make this beautiful world a little better for our being in it.

In order that we may know how to do this, He sent His well-beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, to show us the way, and teach us how to be good and how to be happy; for we cannot be happy unless we are good.

This little book contains some of the rules that the dear Lord gave us to show us how to live rightly. If you learn these rules by heart, and are careful to obey them always, they will give you more joy and happiness in this world and, at last, lead you safely into Heaven.

E. A. W.

Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in Heaven is perfect.

"The Aim, if reached, or not, makes great the life."

RULES FOR RIGHT LIVING AND RIGHT CONDUCT

FROM THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS THE CHRIST

THE FIRST COMMAND

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God, with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

This is the first and greatest commandment, and the second is like unto it. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

All things, therefore, whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, even so do ye also unto them.

CHRISTS NEW COMMANDMENT

A new commandment I give unto you; That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you; continue ye in my love.

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

THE AIM OF LIFE*

Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in Heaven is perfect.

That they all may be one; as thou Father art in me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in us.

THE WAY

I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me.

Whoso will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me.

Seek ye *first* the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all else shall be added unto you.

* The Aim, if reached or not, makes great the Life.

OBEDIENCE

If a man love me, he will keep my words; and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him and will manifest myself to him.

Not everyone that sayeth unto me: "Lord, Lord," shall enter into the kingdom of Heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in Heaven.

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other; or he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

SELF DENIAL*

If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

For I came down from Heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of Him that sent me.

* All true Life begins with Renunciation.

EMERSON.

LIFE

A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world, for my sake, shall keep it unto life eternal.

It is the Spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

ETERNAL LIFE

And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent.

I am the resurrection and the life: He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

CONDUCT

Resist not evil: but, whosoever shall smite thee on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.

And if any man shall sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also.

Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee, turn not thou away.

And whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so unto them.

I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink. I was a stranger, and ye took me in.

Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

Verily, I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me.

LOVE

Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you:

That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for He maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in Heaven is perfect.

This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

SERVICE

If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honor.

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in Heaven.

And whosoever shall give to drink, unto one of these little ones, a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you he shall in no wise lose his reward.

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other: or he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

BLESSEDNESS

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the poor in heart: for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

After this manner therefore pray ye—
Our Father which art in Heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come. Thy Will be done in earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors,
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory forever. Amen.

DIRECTIONS FOR PRAYING

When thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret, and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

For your Heavenly Father knoweth what things ye have need of before ye ask Him.

And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have aught against any; that your Father which is in Heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in Heaven forgive your trespasses.

ANSWER TO PRAYER

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

For everyone that asketh, receiveth; and he that seeketh, findeth; and to him that knocketh, it shall be opened.

And all things whatsoever ye ask in prayer, *believing*, ye shall receive.

For, if ye, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children; how much more shall your Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit unto them that ask Him.

The things that are impossible with men are possible to God.

WORK

Be strong, and work, for I am with you, saith the Lord.

My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.

If a man will not work, neither shall he eat.

JOY

These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

And your joy no man taketh from you.

In His presence is fulness of joy; at His right hand, there are pleasures forevermore.

STRENGTH

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

I am the vine, ye are the branches; He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me ye can do nothing.

I can of mine ownself do nothing; as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

For I came down from Heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of Him that sent me.

All power is given unto me in Heaven, and in earth.

REWARD

If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: If any man serve me him will my Father honor.

And these signs shall follow them that believe: In my name shall they cast out devils:

They shall take up serpents: and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

For the son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels: and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

COURAGE

In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

The things that are impossible with man, are possible with God.

For with God all things are possible.

PATIENCE

DO NOT CONDEMN OTHERS

Judge not, that ye be not judged.

For, with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

First cast out the beam, out of thine own eye: and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

CHARACTER

A good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

A good man out of the good treasure of his heart, bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart, bringeth forth that which is evil; for, of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

Wherefore, by their fruits ye shall know them. Do men gather grapes of thorns or figs of thistles?

FOOD AND CLOTHING

Be not therefore anxious, saying, what shall we eat, or what shall we drink, or wherewithal shall we be clothed?

For after all these things do the Gentiles seek; for your Heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

Seek ye first His kingdom, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

MONEY

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust do corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

But lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.

For, where your treasure is, there will your heart be, also.

LANGUAGE

Swear not at all; neither by Heaven, for it is God's throne:

Nor by the earth; for it is His footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King.

But let your communication be, Yea, Yea; and Nay, Nay; for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Verily I say unto you, whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, shall in no wise enter therein.

The Kingdom of God cometh not with observation: neither shall they say, Lo here! or Lo there! for, behold, the Kingdom of God is within you.

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness, and all things else shall be added unto you.

FORGIVENESS

Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.

And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.

For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Heavenly Father forgive your trespasses.

And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have aught against any.

TRUTH

If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall make you free.

When he, the Spirit of Truth, is come he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.

I am the way, and the Truth, and the Life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me.

PEACE

These things have I spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

And lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.

COMFORT

I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you.

And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another comforter, that he may abide with you forever;

Even the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him; but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.

LIGHT

I am the Light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.

Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.

Ye are the light of the world.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see (not you, but) your good works, and glorify (not you, but) your Father which is in Heaven.

IMMORTALITY

I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth on me, though he were dead, yet shall he live;

And whosoever liveth and believeth in me, shall never die.

REST

Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

FAITH

Have faith in God.

For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

Therefore I say unto you, whatsoever things ye desire when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.

And these signs shall follow them that believe. In my name,—they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

GOD'S LOVE FOR US

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but should have everlasting life.

For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

And are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall to the ground without your Father.

But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

Fear ye not, therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Even so, it is not the will of your Father which is in Heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.

WORSHIP

The hour cometh and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him.

God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him, must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.

WATCH AND PRAY

Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath.

Watch therefore; for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh.

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my word shall not pass away.

CHRIST'S PRAYER FOR ALL WHO FOLLOW HIM

I pray not that Thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldst keep them from the evil in the world.

Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

And the glory which Thou gavest me, I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one;

I in them, and Thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that Thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as Thou hast loved me.

THE BREAD OF LIFE

It is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger: and he that believeth on me, shall never thirst.

I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever.

I have meat to eat that ye know not of.

My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work.

THE WATER OF LIFE

Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:

But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him, shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water, springing up into everlasting Life.

And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. and let him that heareth say, Come. And whosoever will, let him come, and drink of the Water of Life freely.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or the likeness of anything that is in Heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I, the Lord thy God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me, and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain.

Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work. But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy man servant, nor thy

maid servant, nor thy cattle, nor the stranger that is within thy gates. For in six days the Lord made the heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Honor thy father and mother; that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

Thou shalt not kill.

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Thou shalt not steal.

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, nor his wife, nor his man servant, nor his maid servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.

PART II

OTHER PASSAGES FROM THE SCRIPTURES

"All sin is selfishness, all selfishness is sin."

Theologia Germanica.

"He prayeth best, who loveth best
All things both great and small,
For the dear Lord to whom we pray
He made and loveth all."

"And he who serveth best, his fellow
man,
Is serving God the holiest way he
can."

PURE AND PERFECT LOVE*

Love suffereth long, and is kind; love envieth not; Love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up.

Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth:

Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

Love never faileth.

And now abideth Faith, Hope, Love, these three; but the greatest of these is Love.

RIGHT THINKING**

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if

* When Love is absolutely Pure and Perfect, there will be no death. ANON.

** "Guard well your thoughts: Your thoughts are heard in Heaven." LESSING.

there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, *think* on *these* things.

1

God that made the world, and all things therein, seeing that He is Lord of Heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; . . . He giveth to all, life, and breath and all things; . . . He is not far from any one of us;

For in Him we live, and move, and have our being.

2

God will render to every man according to his deed;

To them who by patient continuance in well-doing seek for glory, and honor, and immortality; eternal life;

But to them that are contentious, and do not obey the Truth, but obey unrighteousness; indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish.

3

For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is Life and Peace.

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God.

4

Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love, in honor preferring one another;

Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

5

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy: for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

6

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

7

And let us not be weary in well-doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

8

And be ye kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God, for Christ's sake, hath forgiven you.

9

Finally, brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.

For it is God which worketh in you both to will, and to do, of His good pleasure.

10

And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.

11

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation, for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him.

Every good gift, and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.

Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this. To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

12

For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well-doing, than for evil doing.

13

For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

14

The Spirit and the bride say, Come, and let him that heareth say, Come, and whosoever will, let him Come, and drink of the Water of Life, freely.

15

If with all your hearts ye truly seek me, ye shall ever surely find me. Thus saith the Lord.

16

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me.

17

They that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. He giveth power to the weak, and to them that have no might He increaseth strength.

18

I can do all things through Christ Jesus, which strengtheneth me.

19

Be strong and work, for I am with you, saith the Lord.

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